

SOUTH CAROLINA READING INITIATIVE

SCRI

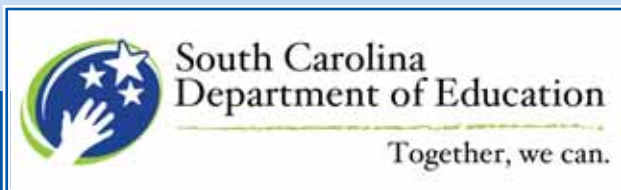


Advancing the Literate Lives of K-12 Students

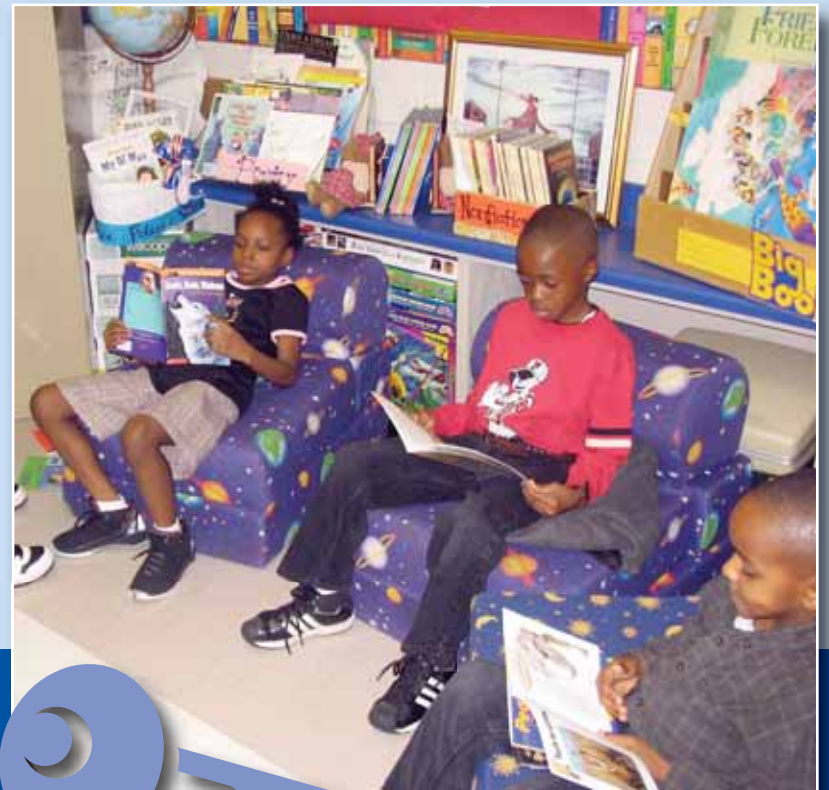


"To realize the dream that brought about the South Carolina Reading Initiative (SCRI), in all of its different phases since 2000, has taken amazing commitment and vision on the part of South Carolina educators and the State Legislature—but then, ***commitment and vision are both key ingredients of lasting change.***"

Dr. Diane Deford, Professor
University of South Carolina



To learn more about SCRI call PAM WILLS • 803.734.8391
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Commitment and Vision

“Since 2000, I have participated alongside literacy coaches and teachers in SCRI. This participation has enabled me to grow into a literacy leader at Crowders Creek Elementary School, Pine Ridge Middle School, and now as principal at Dutch Fork High School. Thanks to SCRI, I have learned how students become successful readers and writers and how to support them by creating a culture of literacy in which both teachers and students thrive.

Ideally, at the elementary school level, students learn the rudimentary skills of reading. Those skills are honed as students enter early adolescence in middle school. As these students progress through high school, their reading skills continue to adapt to the needs of a demanding curriculum and life beyond the boundaries of the classroom. What happens, however, when students do not follow this neat path to lifelong literacy? Without the help of skilled teachers and supportive administrators, they fail! SCRI has helped many teachers improve their skills in working effectively with students who are on track and those who struggle.

For example, this year students in an academic assistance lab at Dutch Fork High School increased their average reading Lexile scores by two hundred points—roughly two grade levels—from September to March of the same school year because they were taught how to read strategically and given the opportunity to read relevant student-selected texts daily.

These same students say that before SCRI they spent little or no time reading. Having SCRI-trained teachers, these same students are now reading as many as twenty-five+ books in a year. The availability of texts in their classrooms, a wide selection of grade appropriate, high interest young adult fiction, and interested teachers who help them find the ‘just right’ books have contributed to the success of these students. Their success was possible through the shared vision of and unwavering commitment to the implementation of the SCRI literacy goals by their teachers, the literacy coach, and principal.

As a college baseball player, I was not allowed on the diamond without the guidance and direction of my coach. I practiced every day even though I already knew the basics of the game. Practice made me a better baseball player. How can we expect our teachers to become literacy experts and students to become avid lifelong readers if we do not nurture and continue to coach them throughout their K-12 journey? Through SCRI, there is a way to do this!”

Greg Morton, Principal, Dutch Fork High School, Lexington 5
SCRI Participant Since Its Inception in 2000



Administrative Support is Key

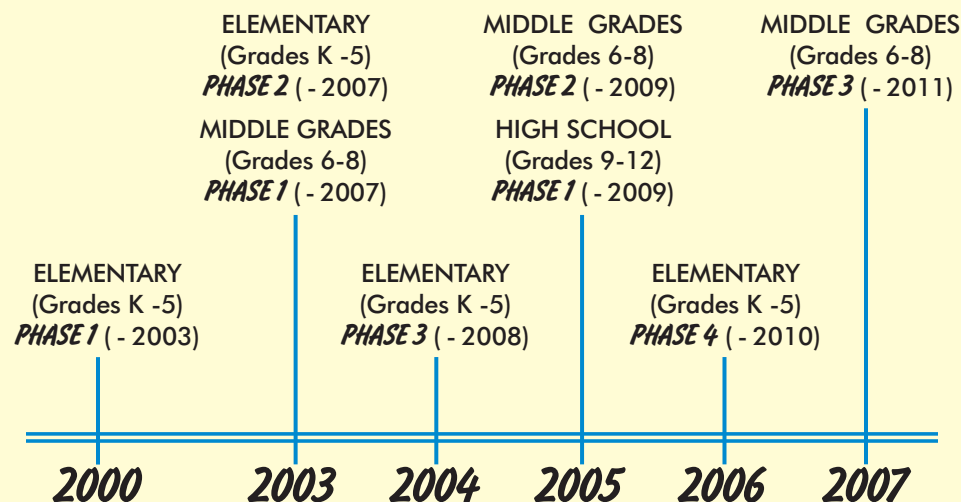
What is a literacy coach?

The South Caroling Reading Initiative (SCRI) is research-based and provides intensive professional development in participating K-12 schools.



Led by a literacy coach, teams of teachers and administrators meet in professional learning communities to acquire knowledge about principles and theories of literacy. This knowledge allows teachers to expertly plan for the implementation of effective instructional strategies in the classroom. These accomplished teachers, with the classroom support of a literacy coach, use their expertise to make informed decisions to ensure that all children have the appropriate instruction, opportunity, and support they need to become successful readers, writers, and thinkers.

Since 2000, the General Assembly has funded the South Carolina Reading Initiative.



Through these 8 phases, over 270 literacy coaches have received training and have impacted **thousands** of teachers and students across the state.



“SCRI has transformed our small rural school into a place of thinkers and learners...and this includes the teachers. No one proclaims to know it all or have all of the answers. But we all say we can figure it out together. This learning community would not have been possible without the guidance, support, and funding of the extraordinary people of the South Carolina Reading Initiative!”
Kelli Sanders, Teacher
Richard Carroll Elementary School, Bamberg 1



“My first year of teaching was a difficult experience culminating in my not receiving a contract for the next year. Fortunately, an amazing principal took a chance and offered me an assistant's position, where I met a most amazing lady who allowed me to participate in SCRI study group. The group, for me, provided so many invaluable techniques, as well as a major focus on reflection. The class enabled me to learn from many of my previous shortcomings, but mostly reestablished my certainty that I am indeed called to teach. Had it not been for the program, I'm not sure that I would have again pursued a career in education, thus forfeiting the joy of my life. SCRI is one of the most inspiring and enjoyable avenues that I've traveled while on the road to higher learning. I'm so very thankful for the inspiration of whoever created this rejuvenating and enlightening program.”
Michele Carroll, High School English Teacher
Laurens 55



“All my study group teachers have formed their own small professional learning groups. One of them, the history department chair at Rock Hill High, has people from two other school districts, from CERRA, and from Winthrop University. SCRI is expanding its influence!”
Jason Johns, Literacy Coach
Rock Hill, York 3



“Our book circulation has increased over 150% in the past three years that we have had a high school literacy coach.”
31 year veteran Media Specialist

“SCRI and our literacy coach have provided such awesome support for our teachers and students. The professional study group time for teachers is filled with best practices for literacy. It's created a great foundation for the teachers and for me. SCRI has provided a structure, and our students truly benefit from it.”
Leigh Jordan, Media Specialist
Rucker Middle School, Lancaster



“Recently, a teacher in my SCRI study group asked for my assistance in helping a ninth grade student find the just right book to read, which I gladly did. The next day, the student sought me out and said, ‘This is the first book I've ever read.’ The following week, I received a beautiful peace lily with a card from the student's grandmother that said, ‘It's a miracle; my granddaughter is reading.’ This is why I coach!”
Paula Miller, SCRI Coach
Brookland-Cayce High School, Lexington 2



“SCRI is definitely aimed at helping people understand that one size doesn't fit all. It's based on teachers being equipped to assess what a child knows and then working from that strength model.”
Suzette Lee, Director
Office of Instructional Promising Practices
South Carolina Department of Education



“Participating in SCRI and working with my coach has opened my eyes to new methods of teaching reading. After 10 years of teaching, I finally feel I have a grasp on how to teach reading and understand how children read and comprehend.”
Spring Bridgers, Teacher
Sandhills Elementary, Lexington 4



SCRI Organizational Chart



“What would happen if we did the right thing in education? That is, set priorities, offered continuous training and support for teachers, and stayed the course long enough to make a real difference? That is what the South Carolina Reading Initiative has done and continues to do.”

Libby Carnohan
District ELA Coordinator
Lexington 1

General Assembly

State Department of Education

Professors
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Regional Coaches






Literacy Coaches

K - 12 Schools

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



A literacy coach...

-  provides classroom-based support for teachers;
-  facilitates teachers' efforts to close the achievement gap for struggling readers;
-  leads job-embedded professional development for teachers and administrators to broaden their knowledge about reading research, theory, and practice;
-  works collegially with teachers to analyze their classroom practice and assess students' progress and performance;
-  champions the importance of literacy with parents and the community.

How does SCRI impact student achievement?

In schools that highly implemented SCRI from 2003-2007, students' achievement scores on the English language arts portion of the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) have improved.

K-5 data showed an average increase of 9.6% with some schools increasing their scores by as much as 19.2%.

In the middle grades, schools with the highest level of SCRI implementation showed an average increase of 4.2% with some schools increasing by as much as 14.8%.

Preliminary high school data indicate an increase in scores on the End-of Course Examination Program (EOCEP) and High School Assessment Program (HSAP).

Source: South Carolina Reading Initiative Implementation Rubric and Achievement Report for K-5 Phase 2 and Middle Grades Phase 1 Schools



Importance of Coaching

Professional Development Outcomes in Terms of Estimated Percent of Participants

PD Elements	Knowledge Level	Skill Level	Transfer to Practice
Theory	10%	5%	0%
Demonstrations	30%	20%	0%
Practice	60%	60%	5%
Coaching	95%	95%	95%

Adapted from Joyce, B. & Showers, B. (2002). Student achievement through staff development (3rd ed.). Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.